

California Department of Corrections

## Victim Services & Restitution Update

*Making a Difference for Victims...*

Issue 5

[www.corr.ca.gov/VictimServices](http://www.corr.ca.gov/VictimServices)

Special Edition 2003

## Fulfilling The Promise

### Greetings from the Office of Victim Services and Restitution

It is hard to believe that 2003 marks 15 years of exemplary service to those crime victims whose offenders are under the care and custody of the California Department of Corrections (CDC). Kudos and congratulations to us all for a job well done! I thank you each and every one for continuing the "vision" of improved and ongoing relationships with those individuals who have found themselves mired in our business through no choice of their own.

I can remember when a "busy day" was simply one of convincing CDC management that the provision of crime victim services would in no way jeopardize the "business" of the organization! Now, a "busy day" is filled with requests for assistance and guidance in a myriad of matters throughout our organization, all pertaining to the protection and safety of victims and survivors.

Today, I wish to thank those who have given of themselves to make great strides in ***Fulfilling The Promise*** of comprehensive crime victim services in CDC. I wish to thank my staff for 15 years of their heart and time; time that has been dedicated to those needing us to hold them up when facing the reality of attending parole hearings, providing special conditions of parole to make them feel as safe as we can, and talking to them about their issues, not just those of their offender and the offender's rights.

If each day we come to work and do all we can to help victims and survivors, and each night we go home and think about the meaning of our day, we can affirmatively answer the question - what did I do today to make life a bit better for someone else.

Sandi Menefee  
Assistant Director

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. -- Helen Keller

### *15 Years of Victim Services*



*Fulfilling the Promise*

## FIFTEEN YEARS OF FULFILLING THE PROMISE . . .

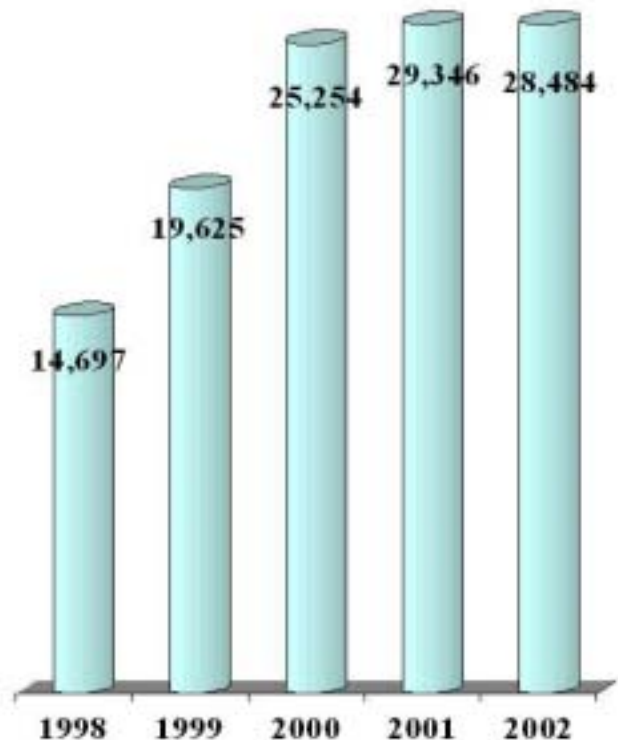
The CDC Office of Victim Services and Restitution (OVSR) was established in 1988 as part of a growing commitment to victim awareness and assistance.

The OVSR is also responsible for ensuring that inmates/parolees, correctional staff, and the general public recognize and understand the impact of crime on victims. The program was placed under the Executive Office of CDC on April 9, 1998.

The scope of OVSR continues to grow. OVSR staff provides several direct services on a regular basis:

- Notification of release, death, or escape.
- Assistance to victims who request imposing special conditions of parole.
- Assistance to victims by collecting Restitution Fines and Direct Orders of Restitution from inmates' wages, trust account deposits, and voluntary parolee payments.
- Request for inmate information, for example: location of incarceration and release date.
- Intervention for victims being threatened or harassed by inmates and/or parolees.
- Referrals to local victim service providers.
- Development and distribution of victim services information for National Crime Victims' Rights Week.
- Support institutions and regional parole fundraising activities.
- Partnership with other states in resolving crime victim issues.
- Coordination of the "Cherish Our Children Holiday Campaign."
- Training to organizations at the local and national level.
- Assistance to staff victims.
- Serves as consultants to the National Victim Center, the National Organization for Victim Assistance, and the Federal Office for Victims of Crime.
- Developed a "Staff as Victims" videotape and brochure.
- Training to CDC employees on the impact crime has on victims.

**CDC OVSR Victim  
Contacts By Year**



**The toll free number, (888) 562-5874, was established by the CDC as part of the Department's emphasis on victims' rights and services.**

Watch your thoughts; they become words.  
Watch your words; they become actions.  
Watch your actions; they become habits.  
Watch your habits; they become character.  
Watch your character; it becomes *your* destiny.

Frank Outlaw





## RESTITUTION COLLECTION PROCESSES

### INMATE FINE AND VICTIM DIRECT ORDER COLLECTIONS

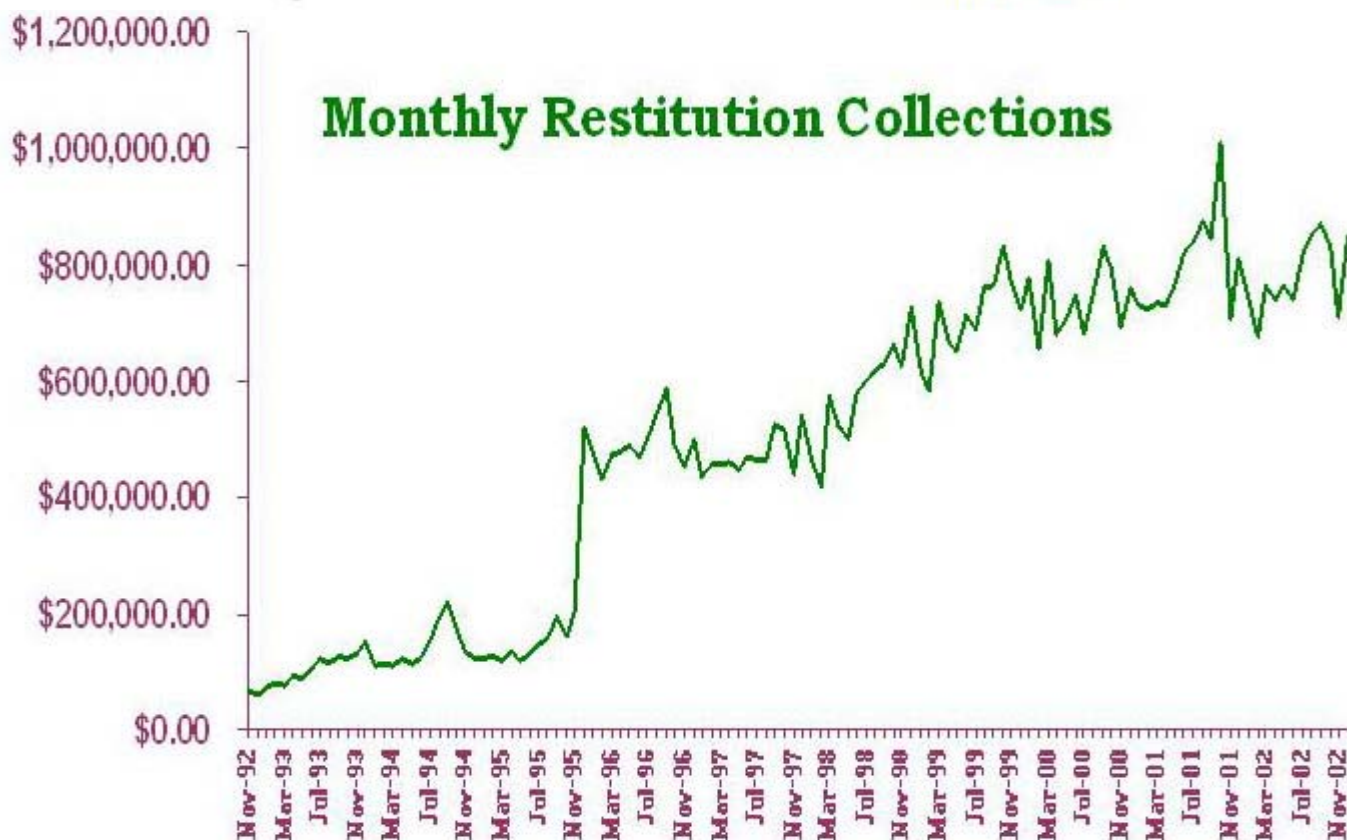
- Victims are required to File a Direct Order Application Form.
- 20% Collected from Inmate Trust Deposits for Fines and Victim Direct Orders of Restitution.
- Additional 2% Collected for Restitution Administration Fee.
- Fine and Victim Direct Order Money Collected is transferred to the Victim Compensation Board for disbursement.

### PRISONER LITIGATION AWARDS & JUDGEMENT COLLECTIONS

- CDC's Legal Division notifies OVSR of a pending lawsuit judgment or settlement.
- Inmate Central File is reviewed to determine all Fines and Direct Orders issued by the court and total restitution balance due.
- Restitution Statement of Obligations is sent to the Legal Division and Accounting Unit.
- CDC's Accounting Unit issues three checks, one to the victim, one to the restitution fund, and one to the inmate.

### OUT OF STATE PAROLEE COLLECTIONS

- Parole Agent or Parolee requests Restitution Balance
- Inmate Central File is reviewed to determine all Fines and Victim Direct Orders issued by the court.
- Payments are deducted & a Statement of Restitution Obligations is faxed to the Parole Agent.
- Payments are made to OVSR and receipt is faxed to the Parole Agent.
- Money collected is transferred to the Victim Compensation Board for disbursement.
- Parolee must satisfy all Restitution before a request to parole to another state is granted.



Total Restitution Collections November 1992 Through December 2002: **\$60,058,051**  
(Includes prisons, parolees, lawsuits, and Joint Venture collections)



Angels can fly because  
they take themselves  
lightly.

Nancy

I met a young girl the other day. Her insides radiated like gold through every avenue of her. Her eyes, hair even her fingertips explode with this inner light. She used it to heal herself through a time in her life where she felt the darkest. With help from good family and friends, she created the light. Now she shares the light with everyone around her. Thank you for teaching me to love the girls who come into my life. You are a beautiful gem that shines like the brightest star in the sky.

Elaine



Keep trying. It's only from the valley that the mountain seems high.



Why did I stay . . .

I am often asked . . . “Why did you stay in an abusive relationship?” If I knew why, I answer, I would not have stayed.

I was scared and alone . . .

I felt as if there was no one to turn to, no escape possible, no one would love me, no one else cared.

I was scared and alone . . .

When I went for help, no one believed me. My own parents have difficulty believing my husband would hurt me, he was so charming.

I was scared and alone . . .

Even when the police would come, they would not arrest him. They always asked if everything was alright, he said yes. I could not speak, I was scared of what would happen when he left.

by a Parole Officer



. . . Hope



Stairway leading up to . . .

### A Need – No More

There was a time when she was trapped,  
Trapped by a feeling of inadequacy and fear.  
A time when she felt she deserved whatever was given,  
A time when life really wasn't worth livin'.

Her children saw her weakness and felt weak themselves,  
Too weak to stand alone, to be free of this suffocating need.

A need to have someone give her life,  
To be an object, not loved as a wife.

A time came when this pain was to end,  
A time when her children would not see this torture again.  
She rose from the depths of this darkened cold well,  
To learn that being alone was not such a hell.

With family and friends to support her through,  
Her feelings of independence and self-esteem grew.  
She knows now that she deserves to be treated of worth,  
And feels all women must be taught this from birth.

Today, there is no “need” involved in her love of a man,  
But a “want” for someone to share and understand.  
The trap has been sprung and shall not tighten again,  
Because of the strength she found within.

by “Darlene”

One step taken by CDC in *Fulfilling the Promise* was to develop a “Helping Crime Victims” brochure which provides information about how the correctional system helps victims of crime and their family members.

# HELPING CRIME VICTIMS

Another action toward *Fulfilling the Promise* was to create a “Request for Notification/Special Condition of Parole” (CDC Form 1707) to assist victims.

REQUEST FOR VICTIM SERVICES  
and RESTITUTION COLLECTION REQUEST FORM  
CDC 1707 (Rev. 11/99)

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES AND RESTITUTION  
Fax Number (916) 358-2199 Toll Free Number (888) 562-5874  
[www.cdc.state.us/VictimServices](http://www.cdc.state.us/VictimServices)

It is your right to be notified of the status of an offender including: scheduled release date from state prison, scheduled life parole hearing, escape or death. No notice will be given when an inmate is moved from one facility to another.  
PLEASE SUBMIT FORM AFTER THE OFFENDER IS SENTENCED TO STATE PRISON.

☐ I am requesting notification of release regarding an offender and possibly imposing special conditions of parole  
☐ I am requesting notification of release, imposing special parole conditions, AND collection of restitution  
☐ I am requesting ONLY assistance with collection of Court Ordered restitution

**A. INMATE INFORMATION**

Inmate's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CDC Number (Prison Number): \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Sentenced to State Prison: \_\_\_\_\_  
Court Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ County of Commitment: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. CURRENT ADDRESS**

I understand that it is MY responsibility to keep CDC update regarding my current address and phone number so that notification can be made. Request for notification will be forwarded to the appropriate institution for confidential processing-not available to the inmate or the inmate's attorney.

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
1) Phone (day): \_\_\_\_\_ 2) Phone (evening): \_\_\_\_\_

**C. REQUEST FOR SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF PAROLE**

Note: the parole authority considers all requests for special conditions of parole at the time of the inmate's release. Not all requests for special conditions are granted.

☐ Victim (direct victim of offender) ☐ Family member of victim Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Parent/Guardian ☐ Witness, or ☐ Concerned Citizen

I would like to request the following special conditions of parole:

No contact with victim Parole offender to another county Parole offender 35 miles from VICTIM'S  
(also applies while incarcerated) residence address (not a P.O. Box address)

If you would like to provide additional information, explaining your request, attach a separate sheet of paper.

**D. REQUEST FOR DIRECT ORDER OF RESTITUTION COLLECTION**

Please collect on a Direct Order of Restitution payable to (print name or business specified in the Court Order, and title if requesting for a business) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
It is not required, but if you are in possession of the Court Order, please attach a copy.

E. Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_





Staff coordinates a statewide "Moment of Silence" in commemoration of crime victims. During the National Crime Victims' Rights Week, victims of crime, victim advocates, criminal and juvenile justice officials, allied professionals, and community volunteers across the United States observe the annual event.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!  
National Crime Victims' Rights Week is scheduled for  
April 6 - 12, 2003.  
This year's theme is "*Fulfilling The Promise*".



Program staff coordinates CDC's participation at the "March on the Capitol".



### How Could You

Didn't you look into my eyes?  
They were filled with hope and trust.  
Didn't you touch my hands?  
They were so small and tender.  
Didn't you listen to my voice?  
It was soft and my words so simple.  
And my heart – didn't you look into  
my heart?  
For there was genuine love and  
unconditionalness.  
I just don't understand how you  
missed all of these precious gifts.  
I was so tiny and innocent.  
I needed your love and guidance.  
I needed your encouragement.  
I needed you.

"M.M."



Others can stop you temporarily – you are the only one  
who can do it permanently.

Zig Ziglar





### If I Could Make Make One Wish

I sometimes sit and wonder  
Why things happen as they do,  
Why so many heartaches come along,  
Sometimes just a few.

If it's something that we are  
Or something that we do,  
Can we change the fate of some  
And how do we choose?

If only there could be a miracle,  
To bring happiness to all,  
If we only had to push a button  
Or simply make a telephone call.

If I could make one wish  
I know the one it would be,  
I would choose that one miracle  
That would bring you back to me.

Love,  
Mom

### Tell Me Again

Tell me again, mommy  
How pretty the angels are  
How beautiful they are, with their wings  
fully extended  
How fair they are, as they softly make  
music on the harps  
How comely they are, as they walk down  
the streets of gold in heaven  
How you became an angel one day  
Tell me again, mommy.

"Angie"



## Another way OVSR continues Fulfilling the Promise is by conducting two or three fundraisers annually to benefit victims of crime.

Additionally, all CDC institutions and parole regions are asked to conduct at least one annual fundraising activity to benefit crime victims.



The Mitten Tree in OVSR collects gloves, mittens, scarves, and shoes for neglected, abused, and less fortunate children throughout the Sacramento area.



Each year OVSR staff coordinates CDC's participation in the Cherish Our Children Holiday Campaign. The campaign provides holiday gifts to nearly 1,000 children each year.

### THE VIEW FROM MY APE HANGERS

They ride "iron horses" these modern day cowboys and refer to each other as "brother". Big, burly men with "road names" like Duke, Snowman, Suicide and Grizz. They intimidate some with their looks, others know they are big teddy bears inside. These men ride their motorcycles across the country just to camp, party and "play" with other bikers. Sunburn, wind burn, bee stings - it doesn't matter as long as their gas tank is full and they're in the saddle.

Bikers who would protect their "own" in a heartbeat. But what can melt their hearts in a second? A child in need. Food, clothing, toys or just someone getting down on one knee to look the child in the eyes and say "it's gonna be o.k." They're just bikers...

Members of the RESURRECTION Motorcycle Club, Sierra Nevadas Chapter, have been actively involved in the Cherish Our Children Holiday Campaign for the Department of Corrections over the last two years. We ride our bikes into the quad at the Aerojet complex in Folsom. With us we bring everything from muffins and jelly filled pastry to nachos with the works to quarter pound hotdogs with all the fixings. All proceeds benefit the holiday campaign for children. We make no profit and are not interested in one. Our first year we raised approximately \$500.00. This last year however... WOW... over **\$1500.00** was raised for the children!!

Thanks to all for supporting our efforts to help children. And remember that sound of "distant thunder" could be a biker on his way to a child in need.

Earl Brown (Also known as: Duke, President, RESURRECTION M/C, Sierra Nevadas Chapter)



**Crime victims have numerous resources available to assist them through the OVSR:**

- There are 22 staff currently assigned to OVSR Headquarters and several field positions funded by the program.
- Valuable OVSR information is available on the CDC Internet site.
- Staff has recently completed the process of developing a public relations packet that gives an overview of the program.
- Addresses, phone numbers, and descriptions of services provided by various organizations are also available from OVSR.



*California Department of  
Corrections*

*Office of Victim Services and  
Restitution*

*Are you the victim of a crime and  
the offender is under the  
supervision of the California  
Department of Corrections?*

*If so contact our office toll free at  
1-888-562-5874 or 916-358-2436.*



*As a victim, you have the right to request:*

***Notification:***

*Upon an inmate's release, death, escape, placement in a reentry facility, Board of Prison Term hearing and change in parole status.*

***Special Conditions of Parole:***

*A victim's request for special conditions of parole will be considered by the Parole and Community Services Division at the time of release.*

***Restitution:***

*A direct order of restitution awarded by the sentencing judge may be collected on behalf of the victim of the crime for any economic loss; medical expense, funeral expense, or counseling.*

*For more information, visit our website:*

[www.corr.ca.gov/VictimServices](http://www.corr.ca.gov/VictimServices)

***Honorable Mention***

The beautiful photographs are courtesy of Larry Bandaccari, OVSR Photographer.

State of Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Office of Victim Services

*Justice with Compassion for Victims*

*Victims' Voices: Silent No More A Book of Poems Volume III 1999*

*Bits & Pieces, The magazine that motivates the world. Vol. R/No. 12*

*Zig Ziglar's Favorite Quotations Great Quotations, Inc. Copyright 1989*

# Let Us Know . . .

If there is a service of the Office of Victim Services and Restitution that you would like to know more about or if you would like clarification of a certain procedure, let us know. We will use your questions and ideas for future articles in the OVSR Update. Please contact us by one of the following:

Website: [www.corr.ca.gov/VictimServices](http://www.corr.ca.gov/VictimServices)

E-Mail: [ovsrinet@corr.ca.gov](mailto:ovsrinet@corr.ca.gov)

Phone: (916) 358-2436 or Toll Free 1-888-562-5874

Mail: California Department of Corrections  
ATTN: Office of Victim Services and Restitution  
P. O. Box 942883  
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001



Attn: Office of Victim Services and Restitution  
California Department of Corrections  
P. O. Box 942883  
Sacramento, California 94283-0001

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